

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application No. : 10/501,052
Applicant : Jian Yu
Filed : July 9, 2004

TC/A.U. : 1651
Title : PRODUCTION OF BIODEGRADABLE THERMOPLASTIC
MATERIALS FROM ORGANIC WASTES

Docket No. : D9180-00015
Customer No. : 08933

AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In response to the Office Action of May 25, 2006, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 4 of this paper.

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (original) A method of converting organic wastes to biodegradable thermoplastic materials including polyhydroxyalkanoates (PHAs) which comprises:

(a) treating the organic wastes with an acidogenic microbial population in a first compartment to form volatile organic acids; and

(b) polymerizing the volatile organic acids by polyhydroxyalkanoate (PHA) producing microbial species in a second compartment to form PHAs,

wherein the volatile organic acids are transferred from the first to the second compartments via molecule diffusion across barriers.

2. (original) The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the PHA producing microbial species are *R. eutropha* or *P. oleovorans*.

3. (original) The method as recited in claim 1, wherein (a) occurs in an anaerobic environment and (b) occurs in an aerobic environment.

4. (original) The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the PHAs contain 3 to 5 carbon monomers.

5. (original) The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the PHAs contain 6 to 14 carbon monomers.

6. (original) The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the PHA is poly(3-hydroxybutyrate) or poly(3-hydroxybutyrate-co-3-hydroxyvalerate).

7. (original) The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the compartments are bioreactors.

8-10. (canceled)

REMARKS

In the Office Action of May 25, 2006 for the above-identified application, the Examiner notes that the application is in condition for allowance except for the presence of claims 8-10, directed to an invention non-elected with traverse. Applicant hereby cancels non-elected claims by this Amendment and Response, in accordance with the Examiner's request.

The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned if any questions arise during the course of reconsideration of this matter.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: 6/21/06

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